

THE MILITANT

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Medina Flays Major Parties At Socialist Workers Rally

NEW YORK — Julio Medina, public relations director of the July 26 Movement here, joined with other guest speakers at a Socialist Workers Party election rally Oct. 27 in assailing the reactionary record of the major parties and stressing the need for independent, working-class political action.

Medina congratulated the SWP majority slate on its firm defense of the Cuban revolution and its militant opposition to the Republicans and Democrats.

Long before the Cuban revolution, he said, "the unity of the working class for independent political action" had been a major issue for him. Today, he continued, revolutionists have the added obligation of building a movement to defend the Cuban revolution — "the first socialist revolution in the Americas."

Pointing to the need for united opposition to U.S. capitalist plans to smash the Cuban revolution, he voiced firm confidence in the future of the revolutionary struggle.

N.J. Socialist Bids For Protest Vote



Ruth Shiminsky

NEWARK — Ruth Shiminsky, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor, called for a socialist protest vote against the "absolute failure of either major party candidate to put forward a single basic proposal for the solution of the problems facing the workers and the Negro people of this state."

"If ever there was a case of the same bad medicine being poured from two bottles, this is it," she said. Pointing to the continuing wide unemployment in the state, particularly among Negro workers, she charged that Hughes, the Democrat, and Mitchell, the Republican, had devoted themselves to a mud-slinging campaign because neither have anything to offer in the way of a serious program.

"History will join you tomorrow," he declared.

Jean Rubinstein claimed the distinction of being, at 76, the oldest person at the rally. She spoke vividly of her life-long adherence to the socialist cause and her continuing confidence in its victory. Scoring the cold-war propaganda of the major parties, she heaped ridicule on the fallout shelter program. The best bomb shelter she had seen, she said, was the one in Berlin where Hitler is buried.

She called for a drive to regain the support of the many radicals in New York who had piled up impressive votes for the American Labor Party. "I'm looking for the day," she said, "when there will be socialist speakers on the street corners all over New York."

Price Backs Ticket

William A. Price, who faces a prison term for defying the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, expressed his appreciation for the vigorous defense of civil liberties by the SWP slate. He lauded "the integrity of the SWP in persistently calling for the right of free discussion." He urged support for the ticket and opposition to "the devious logic of lesser evils."

Fred Halstead, candidate for controller, spoke in place of mayoralty candidate Richard Garza, who was unable to be present because of preparations for a TV broadcast. Halstead's speech won enthusiastic applause, as did those of Clarence Franklin, candidate for Manhattan borough president, and Sylvia Weinstein, candidate for president of the city council.

CBS cameramen covered the rally for inclusion in a documentary on the election campaign and interviewed members of the audience after the meeting.

Destruction of Stalin "Cult" Concession to Soviet People

By George Lavan

Khrushchev's public destruction of the Stalin cult constitutes a major concession — the greatest to date — to the intense desire of the Soviet people for democratization of their society. It unquestionably marks the beginning of a new era in the USSR. It opens the floodgates of long-repressed popular hatred and criticism of government abuses suffered under Stalin. But popular denunciations and criticisms of the recent past will not be long in moving to the abuses of the present.

Recognizing the power and irrepressibility of the mounting tide of popular feeling, Khrushchev prefers riding with it to trying to stop it. Indeed, he even tries to harness it for his own ends — to give the sledge-hammer force of public sentiment to his smashing of his former rivals inside the Kremlin and to back his foreign policy over Peking's objections. Nonetheless the tidal wave Khrushchev is helping to unleash will in time threaten the very foundation of his own rule — the privileged bureaucracy he represents.

The just concluded 22nd Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union accomplished the definitive smashing of the Stalin cult. It went much further in exposing the almost unbelievable brutality, sadism and injustice of that despot's rule than had the 20th Congress in 1956.

While the 20th Congress first legitimized public criticism of Stalin, it did so only partially and equivocally. The fact that Khrushchev's speech of that time was not published in the USSR, so that ordinary people could only guess at what had been said from rumors allowed to trickle down, and the fact that official mentions of Stalin's "excesses" were often balanced with official mentions of his "contributions," kept a large section of the wary populace from giving vent publicly to their true feelings. Who could tell, a turn of the political wheel and what one had said might be used against him. Under those conditions only the bolder among the intellectuals and workers spoke out.

But the symbolic act of removing Stalin's body from the mausoleum in Red Square as unfit to



Reproduction of a cartoon by Laura Grey on the occasion of Stalin's death. Published in The Militant March 16, 1953 under the caption, "The Judgment of History."

be there demonstrates to the most cautious and unpolitical that the tyrant, who for long was defied by the government and party apparatus, has now been definitely repudiated.

Khrushchev was confronted with two tasks at this recent Congress: dealing with Peking's opposition to his foreign policy and final disposition of his rivals in

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N.C. 'Kidnap' Trial Put Off; Defendants Released on Bail

NOV. 1 — Three defendants in the Monroe, N.C., racist "kidnap" frame-up won release on bail yesterday after the prosecution succeeded, over objections by defense counsel, in winning postponement of their trials. The three are Richard Crowder and Harold Reape, Negro youths 19 and 17, respectively, of Monroe, and John C. Lowry, 19, white Freedom Rider from New York.

Judge Allen Gwyn of the Union County Superior Court granted the prosecution motion for a postponement so there might be a consolidated trial of all four defendants in the "kidnap" case

if North Carolina succeeds in laying hands on Mrs. Mae Mallory, who is fighting extradition from Ohio. A hearing in her extradition proceedings is scheduled for Nov. 22. The postponement granted in Monroe is until February.

Defense attorneys in Monroe succeeded in having the extremely high bail set on the three youths reduced in view of the state-requested postponement. This permitted the Committee to Aid the Monroe Defendants to utilize a \$15,000 bond previously posted for Richard Crowder as bail for all three.

The emergence of all the defendants from the Union County jail was an occasion for celebration by civil rights fighters in the Ku Klux-dominated city. The colored community rejoiced at their release as a first taste of victory.

Crowder, president of the Monroe Non-Violent Action Committee, and Reape, an active member of the same organization, reside

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N.Y. Forum to Hear O'Connor on Cuba

NEW YORK — James O'Connor, economist at Barnard College, who has just returned from a tour of Cuba, will report on recent developments there at a meeting of the Militant Labor Forum.

The meeting will be held Friday, Nov. 10, 8:30 p.m., at 116 University Place.

O'Connor will discuss recent changes in the political structure of the revolution, the present status of the Cuban economy, and the mood of the Cuban people.

He is the author of a widely quoted series of articles in the magazine, *The Progressive*, based on an earlier trip to Cuba.

New York Vote Socialist Workers New Jersey

... Destruction of Stalin "Cult"

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the "collective leadership" who had tried to unseat him in 1957. In both cases the Soviet Premier's strategy was to label his opponents as "Stalinists" — this, as far as the Soviet and East European masses are concerned, is the most powerful weapon he could have used. Stalinism or the "Stalin cult," to use the euphemism coined at the 20th Congress, represents everything the Soviet masses, and particularly the young generation, hate. In the field of politics it stands for rule by police terror and concentration camps; in economics for disregarding the workers and peasants' desires for improved living standards; regarding nationalities it stands for Great Russian chauvinism, contempt for the aspirations of minority peoples and for anti-Semitism; in culture it stands for rigid thought control and regimentation. Successfully pinning the label of Stalinism on his opponents assured Khrushchev of the overwhelming support of the Soviet people against them.

Nor was it difficult. The diplomatic niceties still inhibited Khrushchev and Chou En-lai from attacking each other's regime by name, confining the argument to Albania. The latter is a regime by club and gun — a perfect replica in miniature, of Stalinist Russia in the 1930's. Though Khrushchev's policy of "peaceful coexistence" is but a continuation of Stalin's nationalist foreign policy, he was enabled to portray it as a new departure and to denounce Albania's and Peking's policy as the old Stalinist "dogmatism."

Anti-Party Group

With even more telling effect was the label Stalinist used against the so-called "anti-party group," i.e. the coalition headed by Molotov, Kaganovich, Malenkov, Voroshilov and Shepilov, which had won a majority in the Praesidium in 1957 and had unsuccessfully tried to oust Khrushchev.

The 22nd Congress marked their utter political ruin. At the 20th Congress Khrushchev had refrained from going into the infamous Moscow "Confession" Trials of the 1930's, only implying that they too were frame-ups as were later show trials and purges. This time Khrushchev's attack went directly to those Moscow Trials.

Indeed the grisly record back to 1934 and the Kirov assassination was publicly probed. It was Kirov's assassination which served Stalin as the pretext for staging the Moscow trials and killing off almost all surviving leaders of the Bolshevik Revolution save for a degenerate handful willing to join him in this mass fratricide. These were the frame-up trials which proclaimed such comrades of Lenin as Trotsky, Zinoviev, Kamenev, Radek and Bukharin to be fascists and spies, hirelings of Hitler and the Mikado. They were the prelude to mass purges which sent millions to the firing squads and concentration camps.

From the 22nd Congress' opening on Oct. 17 to the closing session, Khrushchev's opponents were

denounced for complicity in Stalin's frame-ups.

In his keynote speech Khrushchev for the first time in public added the name of Marshal Voroshilov to the list of "anti-party group" leaders. "Their position was no accident," declared Khrushchev. "They bear personal responsibility for mass repressions against party, government, economic, military and Communist youth officials and for similar phenomena during the period of the cult of personality."

Denounce "Stalinists"

Following Khrushchev's lead every major speaker added to the exposures and accusations against the "Stalinists."

Nikolai M. Shvernik, head of the party's control commission, said that in rehabilitating innocent victims of the Stalin era his commission had "encountered grave consequences of the arbitrary actions and iniquities perpetrated personally by Malenkov, Kaganovich, and Molotov." Records showed, he said, that Malenkov was personally responsible for purges on falsified charges in Byelorussia in 1937 and Leningrad in 1949. Molotov had tried to give the purges a "theoretical base." Several instances of Molotov's cynical cruelty toward purge victims were cited. An instance of Molotov's "extreme cynicism" related by Shvernik was his false exaggeration of a very minor auto accident in 1934 into an "assassination attempt" for which a group of innocent people were tried and condemned.

Alexander N. Shelepin, chairman of the Soviet State Security Committee, told the Congress that Malenkov along with Beria (former secret police head) had purged Armenian leaders as scapegoats for the murder of an Armenian Communist leader whom Beria had killed.

"You sometimes wonder how these people could calmly walk the earth and sleep in peace," said Shelepin. "They must have been plagued by nightmares. They must have heard the sobs and curses of mothers, wives and children of their innocently condemned comrades."

Kirov Assassination

With great detail Khrushchev himself told why it was most likely that Stalin's own secret police had engineered Kirov's death in 1934. Unmentioned was the fact that this was the analysis made at the time by Leon Trotsky in a pamphlet entitled "The Kirov Assassination."

As the Congress progressed foreign correspondents heard increasing rumors about student meetings in Moscow University demanding the removal of Stalin's body from the tomb in Red Square. This was unanimously voted by the Congress on Oct. 30.

It is true that the members of the "anti-party group" are all stained with Stalin's crimes. But this is true also of Khrushchev and his principal supporters. All rose within the bureaucracy under Stalin and could do so only by collaborating in the terror and frame-up by which he ruled.

Thus Kaganovich, now expelled for his crimes in the Ukraine, brought Khrushchev into the Moscow party hierarchy. Malenkov, who after Stalin's death made the first essay to restore "socialist legality" (i.e. curbing the secret police) and increase consumers' goods production, was ousted by a coalition in which Khrushchev played a leading role in the name of preserving the good old (Stalin) policies.

In heaping all the blame for Stalinism on his defeated opponents Khrushchev hopes to erase his own reprehensible record from popular memory. While the Soviet masses joyfully accept the blows he now delivers against the Stalin cult and proven participants in its crimes, it is unlikely that they or history will be cajoled into forgetting whence Khrushchev came or what his record was.

Boycott of Colgate Palmolive Products

A call for a boycott of Colgate Palmolive Company products is being sounded throughout the country. The movement was initiated by Local 6 of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (Independent) to back up its strike for a new contract at the company's plant in Berkeley, Calif.

Information about the issues in the strike and the company's anti-labor attitude has been sent to all central labor bodies in the U.S. and a "Boycott Bus" has set out on a cross-country trip distributing boycott leaflets.

The old contract expired April 1, 1961 but Local 6 continued negotiations without striking until Sept. 15. The union wants improvement of wages, which are 30 cents an hour less than the area and industry pattern. The company's unyielding stand both before and after the walkout can be explained by the fact that it has three other plants operating in the U.S.

Boycott leaflets have been distributed by ILWU members throughout California in front of store and markets selling Colgate Palmolive products. Other brand names under which Colgate Palmolive retails its products, which are also on the boycott list, include: Ajax, Fab, Vel, Wildroot Cream Oil, Halo Shampoo, Cashmere Bouquet, Lustre Creme and Poise.

In addition to solidarity in supporting the boycott, the union is also asking people to write letters to the company announcing their support of the boycott and asking why the company refuses to arbitrate the strike in Berkeley. Such letters or cards should be addressed to: George Lesch, President; Colgate Palmolive Company; 300 Park Ave.; New York 22, N. Y.

Brooklyn Tenants Fight Eviction Plan

BROOKLYN, N.Y. — Some 1,500 families in the Williamsburg area are faced with the threat of being forced out of their homes before they have a decent place to move to. Steam-roller tactics are being employed by private builders to clear the way for the city-subsidized Lindsay housing development.

About 250 families have already been given vacate notices and are supposed to be out within a month. People are already being deprived of heat and hot water as a means of putting pressure on them to get out.

A tenants league has been formed in the area. It is demanding that no families be evicted until they have proper new quarters and that financial help be given those who need it for security on new apartments, etc. The league is also fighting for proper maintenance of the area as long as people are living there. The organization's address is: Provisional Committee of Williamsburg Tenants, Williamsburg Settlement, 17 Montrose Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y.

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Name
Street
City Zone
State

... Monroe 'Kidnap' Trial Put Off

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in Monroe and rejoined their families. Lowry has left Monroe for his home in New York City.

Conrad Lynn of New York, counsel for the Committee to Aid the Monroe Defendants, appeared in court for Crowder and Reape. William Kunstler, also of New York, counsel for the Southern Conference Leadership Council, appeared for Lowry.

The fight against the "kidnap" and shooting frame-ups had several by-products in Union County yesterday.

One was the unprecedented raising of the charge against a white man, Henry J. Fifer, from assault on a woman to first degree rape. The plaintiff is Rose Funderburk, a Negro girl of the county who was raped by four white men. She has positively identified at least two, but only Fifer has been brought to trial. Ordinarily such offenses by white men against Negro women in the county are overlooked by the authorities or treated as minor offenses. The glare of publicity focused on racist practices there, as well as the presence of civil rights attorneys, Lynn and Kunstler, apparently caused local officials not only to bring one of the accused to trial but to try him for the actual crime alleged against him.

A second by-product was the committing of Howard Stack to a mental hospital. He was declared insane by the court the evening prior to the hearing in the "kidnap" case. The Committee to Aid the Monroe Defendants had brought about a federal investigation of Stack's beating of Freedom Rider Richard Griswold in the Union County jail. The CAMD had obtained a handwritten signed

confession by Stack stating that he had beaten the prisoner by pre-arrangement with Monroe police officials. The police had promised him that in return bad check and assault charges pending against him would be dropped. However, the confession continued, he had been released only for two weeks then had been picked up again on the same charges. Out of anger at this double-cross, Stack made the confession.

The original of this confession was sent to Attorney General Kennedy by CAMD Attorney Conrad Lynn. FBI agents subsequently interviewed Griswold and another Freedom Rider who had witnessed part of the beating. Presumably they had also queried Stack and Monroe officials. The CAMD is now investigating to determine whether the sudden commitment of Stack as a mental case is not part of an attempt by Union County officials to prevent a full investigation of his confession.

J. P. Cannon Undergoes Successful Operation

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 1 — James P. Cannon, national chairman of the Socialist Workers Party, is recuperating in excellent fashion from an eye operation. Removal of a cataract was made difficult by corneal complications, but the doctors report the operation was successful and that after the necessary period of convalescence he will have use of the eye.

Friends who wish to write to him may do so care of the Socialist Workers Party's national office, 116 University Place, New York 3, N.Y.

Thanks for a Remarkable Job'

By Marvel Scholl
Militant Fund Director

Congratulations to Chicago, San Francisco and the Twin Cities who have just hit the top — thus joining the earlier arrivals, Boston and St. Louis!

This week I want to share with you some of the fine letters received with contributions from Militant readers.

A. G. of Averill Park, N.Y., writes: "Keep up the good work. Maybe we'll put it over yet."

Mrs. M. D. F. of Hobart, Ind., says: "Here is my dollar for your truth. Wish it could be more."

B. A. of Philadelphia writes: "Enclosed find check in answer to your appeal. I realize it's a moral for the tremendous job you are confronted with and I will try to raise something in the near future. Thanks for the remarkable job you are doing."

Another very fine letter from

Fund Scoreboard

City	Quota	Paid	Percent
San Francisco	\$ 600.00	\$ 612.00	102
Boston	600.00	605.00	101
St. Louis	95.00	95.00	100
Twin Cities	1,300.00	1,300.00	100
Chicago	900.00	900.00	100
Detroit	665.00	640.00	98
Denver	100.00	97.00	97
Connecticut	160.00	145.00	91
San Diego	300.00	265.00	88
Newark	160.00	138.00	86
Philadelphia	320.00	247.00	80
Los Angeles	5,300.00	4,233.00	80
New York	4,700.00	3,398.00	72
Berkeley-Oakland	530.00	362.00	68
Cleveland	530.00	339.00	64
Seattle	530.00	312.00	59
Allentown	130.00	67.00	52
Milwaukee	320.00	95.00	30
General		202.00	
TOTALS		\$17,240	
through Oct. 30		\$14,052	
		82	

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Monday, November 6, 1961

No U.S. Troops for Diem!

General Maxwell Taylor, Kennedy's special military advisor, has returned from Saigon with a request from the government of Ngo Dinh Diem for U.S. combat units to be committed to the guerrilla warfare in South Vietnam.

The U.S. government has already sunk \$1.5 billion into Diem's government and already has a group of U.S. military men "in the field" against the guerrillas. But even the U.S. commercial press which is hell bent for "saving" Vietnam from the Viet Cong peasant revolutionaries, cannot conceal the fact that Diem's government is hated by the mass of the people of South Vietnam.

In the liberal *New York Post* of Oct. 29, Theodore Kaghian writes: "Diem is well meaning, but he is insecure and in his insecurity he is oppressive. The peasant is afraid because of this oppression which takes the form of secret police, unrestrained conduct of troops, peremptory and unexplained government actions . . ."

In the Oct. 21 issue of the conservative *New York World Telegram*, Gardiner B. Jones writes: "Diem's rule, it is said by anti-Communist critics, began as authoritarian, and became by stages autocratic, personal, clannish and finally an old-fashioned despotic Oriental government compromised by corruption . . . Diem reportedly trusts nobody but his closest relatives and refuses to listen to any criticism of them . . . It is not without significance that 'Democracy' includes 'political re-education' camps where about 25,000 'opponents' are confined."

It is an outrage that U.S. soldiers should be sent to risk their lives defending such a regime against the justified wrath of the Vietnamese population. The request for further commitment of U.S. forces should be refused and all forces and aid presently committed should be immediately withdrawn.

Diluted Blood

The compelling need for socialized medicine in this country was pointed up in grisly fashion with the Nov. 1 revelation that New York's city hospitals have been ordered not to use blood purchased from commercial blood banks in the area. Investigation had revealed that outdated, useless and dangerous blood and plasma was being sold by a number of firms.

Whole blood from donors must be used within three weeks. At least one firm was said to have changed the labels on blood to keep it within this time limit. Another is accused of processing old blood into plasma.

It is also suspected that some firms, in an almost unbelievable thirst for profits, have been diluting the blood they sell.

It was learned that outdated blood had been used in a shipment of plasma that went to Cuba. Authorities said Havana had been notified of this.

Private medical care has become an extremely lucrative business in this country, with doctors now enjoying the highest income of any professional group. Many people are coming to realize that the American Medical Association's virulent campaign against anything smacking of socialized medicine is motivated by a fear that proper public health care would cut into lush profits.

But did you think that profiteers would go so far as to water blood for the sake of an extra buck?

An Unfit Postmaster General

A hitherto overlooked member of Kennedy's Cabinet is J. Edward Day, the Postmaster General. He made the papers some time back when, with considerable fanfare, he announced a new "code of ethics" for post office workers. Now his ethics may be judged by a case in Savannah, Georgia.

Delivering mail in that city for 16 years was Westley W. Law, who on his own time is president of the Savannah NAACP and state NAACP. He led the successful 15-month boycott against downtown Savannah department stores at whose lunch counters Negro youths had been arrested.

The infuriated racists swore to get W. W. Law. Rep. J. E. Hagans got elected to Congress on promises to White Citizens Council audiences to have Law fired from the Post Office. This is precisely what happened on Sept. 8. On Sept. 29 a departmental grievance committee reviewed the trumped-up charges and voted two-to-one for Law's reinstatement with back pay. But Post Office officials said Law would stay fired.

The NAACP and other civil-rights organizations brought pressure to bear on Washington and Postmaster General Day finally got word from higher up to reinstate Law. He did so with a statement which for bad temper and scurrility sets a new low even for Washington. Law, he said, was "an unsuitable employee" whom he "would not want delivering mail to my family's home."

What a reactionary and crummy lot the "new frontiersmen" of the Kennedy administration are showing themselves to be.

What a Socialist Mayor Would Do

(The following are excerpts from an Oct. 26 interview with Richard Garza, Socialist Workers nominee for mayor of New York, over radio station WOR.)

Question. Perhaps our audience would like to hear a little about you and your qualifications for office.

Answer. I think that one of my best qualifications is really knowing what life is like in this city, what the problems are of the vast majority of the people. I'm 33, married, and raising three children on the Lower East Side. I've been a working man most of my life and a union member since I was 17. My wife and I both work to try to keep up with rising prices.

Like most of you, we're concerned about making life better for our children and worried about the danger of nuclear war. We have to face the day-to-day problems of keeping jobs, the schools our children go to, conditions on the streets, and the future education of our family. I think these experiences qualify me more than the administrative experience could, although I've had that too, in union life, and in the Socialist Workers Party.

Q. I'm sure you realize, Mr. Garza, that your chances of winning this election are slight. Can you tell me then, why you're running?

A. There are many reasons. One is that the members of my party feel that we have to speak out against the terror directed against the people by the threat of nuclear war; that we have to protest the psychologizing of our children to an unknown terror and horror by making them go through air-raid drills where they hide their head under their desks; that we have to expose the hoax that fallout shelters can protect the people against a bomb capable of burning everything from New York to Poughkeepsie. Fallout shelters will only be crematoriums for the people inside.

I'm running also to speak for the millions of people who don't have a party to represent them. They include the thousands of youngsters between 18 and 21 who have finished school and can't find jobs. The thousands on welfare, not because they don't work, but because their employers don't pay them a living wage.

I want to speak out for the Negroes and Puerto Ricans who face discrimination in hiring and housing. The hundreds of thousands of children in rat-infested schools, I want to speak for many of the elderly people of this city, who, after lives of work, can't get adequate medical care or decent places to live because profits come first.

Another reason is to challenge the two-party system that actually represents only one group of people — the rich. Both the Republicans and Democrats represent the big real estate interests, the employers and the financiers.

Q. You've mentioned many of the problems that everyone agrees plague this city. What would you do about these problems if you were elected?

A. We have many proposals that

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Richard Garza

are different from those of Lefkowitz and Wagner. Let me start by telling you that they plan to do about crime. Lefkowitz wants to hire 6,000 more cops. Wagner wants to make punishments tougher and establish a labor corps for juvenile delinquents.

Did you know that the number of policemen in this city has jumped 17 per cent in the last ten years while our population has barely increased? Yet the city hasn't become safer. It appears that the more police you add the unsafer it gets.

A socialist administration would eliminate the professional police force in order to cut the crime rate. The people would be organized to police the streets, parks and buildings. This isn't a utopian idea. It's precisely the way policing is now being handled in Havana. Friends of mine who visited Cuba before the federal government put a ban on traveling there tell me that the streets of Havana are now the safest in the world.

Abolition of the professional police force would do away with police brutality which is responsible for the violent reaction against the cops. It would do away with graft and paid police protection for small merchants.

Q. Earlier you mentioned the threat of war, Mr. Garza. Just how does this tie in with the municipal campaign?

A. Life and death is a municipal issue. Everyone knows that New York is a prime H-bomb target. If I were mayor I would organize a referendum of the people of this city on whether they want to go to war over Berlin. Let's have some self-determination right here at home. We would ask the people to vote on whether they want the government to resume nuclear testing and further positioning of the atmosphere.

Debate and discussions in meeting halls and over TV and radio

should be arranged to have a free discussion of both sides, and both sides should get equal representation in the press. After the vote, I would bring the results into the City Council asking it to bring this issue before Congress. We could ask for a nation-wide discussion and vote on the same issue. I'm convinced the people would vote "no" to war and nuclear testing and I'm willing to let the people decide. Would the Republicans and Democrats give the citizens of this country the opportunity to decide their own fate? I doubt it.

Q. One of the most difficult problems in this city is housing. What concrete steps would you take to alleviate the housing shortage?

A. A socialist administration would take a good look at this city and get to work to provide adequate housing at reasonable rents for everyone who needs it by starting a massive building program. I don't mean the type of program that the City Planning Commission engages in, where the people of the West Village are thrown out of their homes to make the real estate sharks even richer. No — first would come the needs of the people. They would be helping set up committees and choosing experts to plan and build their new homes.

Unrealistic? Not if Cuba is an example. There, tens of thousands of homes have been built for people living in slums. Everyone who needs a place to live is put on a list and told where their new homes will be and they can even help with the building.

Not until the new home is built is the old one demolished. Homes are built with variety and style, unlike the prison-like building of the New York housing projects. What the Cubans have done is to place human rights before property rights and that's what a socialist administration would do here.

Providence Police Halt Showing of Cuban Films

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Oct. 28 — Acting at the request of a reactionary student, the police stopped a showing of films from Cuba at the First Unitarian Church last night. The showing was sponsored by the Providence Local of the Young Socialist Alliance.

About 120 college students from the area were in attendance when the cops marched in and halted the movies on the technicality that a permit had not been issued by the film-censoring division of the state board of licenses.

Roger Sheppard, spokesman for the YSA, denounced the police action as a suppression of free speech. He announced plans were under way for a reshowing of the films and that all legal technicalities would be met in advance.

Previous to the aborted film showing, the audience heard a talk by Pedro Camejo on U.S. intervention in Latin America.

Local Directory

BOSTON. Boston Labor Forum, 295 Huntington Ave., Room 200.

CHICAGO. Socialist Workers Party, 302 South Canal St., Room 210. WE 9-5044. If no answer, call HU 6-7025.

CLEVELAND. Socialist Workers Party, 5927 Euclid Ave., Room 23, Cleveland 3, Ohio.

DENVER. Militant Labor Forum, 1227 California. Main 3-0993. For labor and socialist books, International Book Exchange, 1227½ California. Open 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Mon. through Fri.

DETROIT. Eugene V. Debs Hall, 3737 Woodward. TEMple 1-6135.

LOS ANGELES. Forum Hall and Modern Book Shop, Socialist Workers Party, 1702 East Fourth St. AN 9-4953 or WE 5-9238. Open 12 noon to 5 p.m. daily, Sat. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

MILWAUKEE. 150 E. Juneau Ave.

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The Vanishing Sharecropper

By Myra Tanner Weiss

The semi-feudal institution of sharecropping is disappearing from Southern agricultural economy. According to the 1960 report of the National Sharecroppers Fund, released last week, there are only 120,000 in this category in the 16 Southern states. Together with tenant farmers, they numbered 900,000 in 1950. Today there are less than 380,000, all of whom average less than \$1,000 annual income.

No one can regret the disappearance of sharecropping, a system that dates back to the close of the Civil War. But the manner of its death is not a mark of progress. For sharecroppers are not being elevated to the status of independent farmers, the much touted ideal state of capitalist free enterprise. They are being driven off the land to join the even more poverty-plagued category of seasonal and migratory farm laborers or the ranks of city unemployed.

In the state of Mississippi, for example, sharecroppers and tenants declined from 100,000 to 45,000 in only five years, while hired farm workers increased by 72 per cent, from 18,000 to 31,000. The rest of the country saw an 11 per cent decline in this category.

Technological Progress

The changes that are taking place on the land in the South are in part the result of technological progress, which, under capitalism increases agricultural production but also leads to monopoly of the land and the impoverishment of the majority of those who once tilled the soil. However, the destruction of the system of sharecropping is taking place primarily because racist landlords are bent on preserving their privileged and tyrannical position in the South.

Last year 700 families in Fayette and Haywood counties, Tenn., were evicted from the land because they tried to register to vote in an election. These families spent the winter in surplus army tents. More mass evictions are expected this winter as the struggle for democracy continues.

About all the "liberty-loving" federal government has done for the rural victims of the racists has been to provide surplus food and surplus tents when pressed to do so.

There already exist a number of government programs that could be used to help those who are victimized by the racist land-

lords. The Area Redevelopment Administration and the Rural Development programs of the Department of Agriculture are two examples. But, as the Sharecropper Fund points out, "There is no question that under conditions existing in the South today, discrimination affects both the selection of the local committees administering these programs and their actions . . ."

The indifference of the capitalist government to the plight of the rural population in the South cannot be made up for by private efforts praiseworthy though these may be. The National Baptist Convention recently purchased

196 acres of land in Fayette and Haywood counties in order to rent, lease or sell land to evicted families. But this help is only a drop in the bucket.

President Kennedy, like his predecessor, displays great verbal concern for the poor and hungry who constitute the majority of the world's people. The fact that this poverty continues unabated is blamed on the intermediaries, foreign government, the direct recipients of U.S. economic aid. But whom can Kennedy blame for the increasing hunger and poverty of rural families in the South who suffer only because they want democracy?

A Raise for Minnie?

Progress Report

Will Minnie get a raise? I first asked this question in a *Militant* article last December, and reported that five members of California's Industrial Welfare Commission were studying the problem of a 1961 Minni (short for minimum) Budget. In 1950 they figured that a working woman could "maintain her health, her self-respect and the respect of her friends and fellow workers" on \$2,003.98, and the \$1 minimum wage is based on that budget. The possibility of an increase in living costs since 1950 led to the present study.

I am happy to tell you that after ten months of intensive investigation, the state commissioners have decided that a working woman now needs \$2,854.98. This provides for even a slight improvement in Minnie's standard of living. The 1950 budget did not include a newspaper, but in 1961 the State of California has conceded that sharing a daily paper is a necessary expense.

Slimline Budget

Minnie's new budget is limited — \$66 for a vacation, 75c for a restaurant lunch, which they claim will buy a sandwich, salad and milk. But even worse, it is hypothetical, or in other words, she hasn't got it yet. Since she is still living on a 1950 budget and can't afford a newspaper, she may not be aware that the Commissioners are tackling her problem.

"These new figures indicate California's present minimum wage — \$1 an hour — isn't big enough," says the *San Francisco*

Chronicle in a masterly understatement.

The next step is to raise minimum wages and I see in the *Chronicle* that "the state Industrial Welfare Commission decided to re-open wage orders covering thousands of women . . . That means probably a year of study." But — didn't they just finish ten months of study?

1950 Straitjacket

While the studies are being conducted, Minnie remains in the straitjacket of a 1950 budget. The *Chronicle* concludes that her "frugal kind of life . . . sends most working girls in a fervent search of a husband." This is not only an interesting revelation of what they think makes a woman fervent, but it is followed a few paragraphs later by a description of Minnie who, "works in an office or store, shares an apartment, is thirty-five years of age or more." I am sure any woman of thirty-five, or more, has abandoned daydreams about a husband solving her economic problems. She will prefer a more realistic solution, like organizing a union to raise wages well above minimum subsistence, to fight for equal pay and equal opportunities for training and promotion.

In the meantime, the Commissioners are at work. Will they complete their study? Will the minimum wage law be revised? Will Minnie eventually get her raise? Watch *The Militant* next year for a 1962 progress report.

Joyce Cowley

It Was Reported in the Press

Everything's Fine in S. Korea — On Oct. 29 Rep. Walter Judd (R-Minn.) said that a trip to South Korea had convinced him things are much better there than we realized and that the military dictatorship was paving the way for democracy. The next day Kim Dal Ho, chairman of the outlawed Socialist party, was sentenced to 15 years in jail for aiding the "communist cause" by favoring withdrawal of U.S. troops and the neutralization of South Korea as steps toward reunification of the divided country. Six other party members were given terms of six to twelve years.

A Bit Too Blunt? — The early edition of the Oct. 29 *New York Times* carried a story on Richard Garza's campaign under a headline that read, *Socialist Worker Terms Rivals for Mayor Bound to Big Money*. In a later edition the head was changed to: *Socialist Worker Nominee Says Mayoral Rivals Are Hypocritical*.

Baltimore, USA — Philippine-born John Canceron, an employee of Baltimore's Friendship International Airport, speaks some 13 languages and has helped innumerable passengers from other lands in ironing out travel difficulties. A Department of Avia-

tion spokesman says: "He's a terrific good-will ambassador for Friendship." Canceron's job at the airport? He's a janitor.

Texas U Elects Negro — University of Texas students in Houston elected the first Negro member of the student assembly Oct. 25. Gwen Jordan, 22, ran second in a field of ten, with four to be elected. Also, in a referendum, students voted 5,132 to 3,293 in favor of Negroes participating in varsity athletics. Earlier, 6,000 students signed a petition calling for integration of the athletic program.

Making News — The Associated Press reported Oct. 26 that Soviet forces had closed the Friedrichstrasse checkpoint into East Berlin. The next day, U.S. authorities said the checkpoint had been closed "at no time" and three *United Press* reporters said they had seen American cars move through the crossing point in both directions at the time the AP said it was closed.

And Don't Forget the Rent — The Dallas, Texas, city council is preparing to act on an ordinance which stipulates that fallout shelters shall not be used for dwelling

purposes "except during a national emergency or a national disaster."

Burned Out — The state of South Carolina is preparing to invest about \$15,000 in a new electric chair because the old one is no longer safe to operate. It was installed in 1912 and 239 people have died in it.

Need a Good Psychiatrist? — Shelters for Living, Inc., offers deluxe models featuring "a number of versatile utility rooms, to make the shelter a place of repose and buoyant relaxation through the use of color, textures, space arrangements and other original devices." The shelters were designed by an interior decorator and a psychiatrist.

Obituary for Horatio Alger — A recent survey disclosed that a bare five per cent of the present top management of industry started at the bottom rung of the ladder.

Diagnosis — "Nausea, headache and vomiting do not necessarily mean that you have radiation sickness. You may just be nervous and upset, which is understandable in the situation." — From a Public Health Service manual on medical self-help after an atomic attack.

Letters from Our Readers

From Goldwater's State

Phoenix, Ariz.

I am glad to be getting *The Militant*. I became a socialist in 1958. Our family were always liberals and trade unionists. My teachers had been liberals too. When I got out of high school I went on active duty in the reserves and though not yet a socialist I despised the caste system.

I entered the labor market during the 1958 recession with only a high-school education. Coming out of the unemployment office a man was passing out socialist literature and invitations to a socialist study class. I attended. I subscribed to the *Young Socialist* a week later.

I had espoused a Norman Thomas type socialism at first, but as I studied the materialist concept of history I moved to the left end of the spectrum within a year and that's where I've stayed.

Among the working people of Arizona where the speed-up and open shop prevail, among the youth who have had a hard time acquiring skills for an increasingly technical labor market, and among the Spanish-Americans here there is a tremendous reservoir for a mass movement. However, neither the non-political trade unions inspire the unskilled youth and the unemployed nor can the Democrats inspire the mass of workers with enough energy to vote.

Businessmen vote however. That's why Goldwater disgraces Arizona although most workers here don't like him. I believe a labor party can mobilize the groups I mentioned above and many others but till then Arizona workers will be politically demoralized and apathetic.

Best wishes to the Socialist Workers Party and *The Militant*.

R.B.

Mich. Farm Conditions

Bangor, Mich.

Enclosed is \$1 for your fund. Sorry I cannot contribute more but I am hard put and see nothing better financially in the future as standard wages in this area are 75 cents an hour and only the privileged are entitled to work.

This is the apple-knocking section of Michigan which is constantly overrun with citizens of the land of opportunity, namely, Arkansas where the great Senator McClellan holds forth. It would be in the interests of labor and unions in general if it were made known how constituents of the great senator have to leave the state to receive more than 30 cents an hour.

Of my own experience with bureaucracy in the present farm program, I can only say the program is a dismal failure as it gives the local bureaucrats a chance to play politics. I was allotted \$7.90 per acre not to plant wheat on a total allotment of eight acres, whereas my neighbors in good standing were allowed \$42 an acre. Instead of a uniform rate they are allowed to discriminate as they see fit.

Joseph W. Young

Jobless Teen-Agers

Seattle, Wash.

The Chamber of Commerce's magazine, *The Nation's Business*, for October 1961, states: "There are almost as many boys and girls between the ages of 14 and 19 listed in government statistics as unemployed as all the jobless men and women between age 45 and 65. One out of every four jobless workers is a teen-ager. Most jobless youngsters have little or no work experience. Only a few have any job training at all. Many have dropped out of school before com-

pleting high school, some even before eighth grade. These young people don't fit industry's need for trained personnel. Neither do they fit military talent needed."

This voice of big business admits that modern industry cannot use these young people in either its factories or its armed forces. For these young people, and millions of others to come, there is no place in this society.

They are denied the opportunity to identify themselves with their class or generation and are left to form a declassed mass — a mass that capital will try to use as storm troopers against labor and the radical movement.

Although *The Nation's Business* does not identify these young people as to racial origin, undoubtedly a large percentage of them are from the non-white population. Among the Negro people the opportunity for a higher education is more generally denied, especially in rural areas. Also, unemployment is always higher among them and that proportion would tend to be even higher among the young people without any experience and with little educational opportunity.

What happens to most of these young people and what road they will follow depends primarily on the labor and radical movement. They will be drawn to a program that answers or seems to answer their needs and modern capitalism can't do this, although the fascist demagogues will try. It will be up to the socialists to present a program that can solve their problems. For this section of youth, particularly, changing the economic base of society is a necessity.

Melba Baker

A Thought

Filmore, Utah

How might the following fit as a *Thought for the Week*? F.D.R. proved one can be president and still be a humanitarian. Hard-boiled Harry proved anyone might be president. Incompetent Ike proved we don't need a president. Kennedy is proving it's dangerous to have a president.

A. C. Gregerson

To Safeguard Humanity?

Saugerties, N. Y.

Before our public officials and leaders in industry and labor go any further in exploiting the fear and gullibility of the masses (insulting whatever intelligence and non-conformity is left in some of us) I would suggest that these (mis)leaders be summoned to face a tribunal to determine just what kind of shelters they belong in!

The Kennedy klan, the cabinet members, and the legislators who acquiesce and approve, would head the list. Next in line would be the charlatans who promise their subjects divine protection, collecting huge sums for their deceptive practices, and who would now have to prove or disprove their claims and/or promises.

In 1950, the Spanish dictator, Francisco Franco, said: "The American nation is an excessively simple nation that is easily deceived."

J.P.

Pollution in New York

New York, N. Y.

Here is something Richard Garza should challenge Wagner on. The director of the city's department of air pollution says that effective anti-pollution devices are now available for cars and trucks but he doesn't want to install them in the city's fleet because they cost between five and seven dollars apiece.

J.B.

Thought for the Week

"We're professional soldiers. We fight any enemy the president designates. We don't have to develop hate . . . You might build up hate against one enemy and find yourself fighting another." — General David M. Shoup, Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps.